

WHAT IS A WORD TO YOU?



Metaphors can explain ideas quickly and poetically. If you say “a word is a bird in flight” you are using **METAPHOR**. You are comparing one thing to another. Comparing a word to a bird suggests that words fly on the air; it suggests they come and go. You could even say some words are feathery, some have claws, some squawk and some coo. You can pack a lot into a metaphor!

A **SIMILE** is a type of metaphor that uses “like” to compare things. “A word is like a bird in flight”. **METAPHORS** (no “like”) are braver and more poetic.

TAKE A LEAP!

Make a few metaphors for “word”. There are no wrong answers. Someone could say a word is a snowflake, because it melts away. Or a word is a lost sock, alone and lonely.

A word is a _____

A word is a _____

A word is a _____

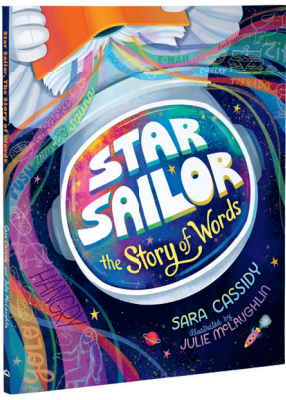
A word is a _____

A word is a _____



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BE A WORD DETECTIVE



New words are created every day. Some things are named for inventors. The leotard is named for French acrobat Jules Leotard. He invented the close-fitting bodysuit to move easily and safely on the trapeze. Wellington boots were dreamed up by England's Duke of Wellington. Things also get named for where they come from. The fez hat was first popular in Fez, Morocco. Siracha sauce is from Si Racha, Indonesia.

YOUR TURN

You can figure out where some words come from on your own.

Where do you think slippers get their name? Hint: Not from being slippery.



What about a T-shirt? Hint: Where does a V-neck get its name?

COMPOUND CONUNDRUM

It's fun to break apart closed compound words. That's two words stuck together. Like wristwatch. Wrist + watch. A watch worn on the wrist. Pullover: A sweater with no buttons or zipper — you "pull" it "over" your head. Can you figure out:

Nightgown	Undershirt	Bathrobe
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FILL IN THE BLANKS

A headscarf is a scarf you wear on your _____.

A housecoat is a _____ you wear in your house.

A sweatshirt is a shirt that you can _____ in.

The suit you swim in is your _____.

Sunglasses are good glasses to wear in the _____.

A sunflower is a flower that looks like and tilts towards the _____.

A butterfly is butter that can _____.

Wait, what? Actually, no one knows why they are called butterflies!



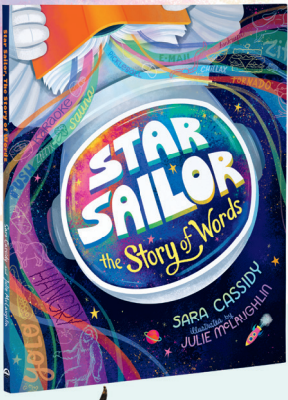
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Answers: Slippers are easy to "slip" on — no laces or zippers. Bathrobe: a robe for before and after the bath. Undershirt: a shirt you wear under other clothes. Pullover: a sweater with no buttons or zipper — you "pull" it "over" your head. Can you figure out: Nightgown: A nightgown is a long-sleeved nightgown. Wellington boots: Wellington boots are named after the Duke of Wellington. Siracha sauce: Siracha sauce is named after Si Racha, Thailand. Fez: A fez is a traditional Moroccan hat. Leotard: A leotard is named after Jules Leotard. Wristwatch: A wristwatch is named after the wrist and watch. Headscarf: A headscarf is named after the head and scarf. Housecoat: A housecoat is named after the house and coat. Sweatshirt: A sweatshirt is named after the sweat and shirt. Suit: A suit is named after the suit (clothing). Sunglasses: Sunglasses are named after the sun and glasses. Sunflower: A sunflower is named after the sun and flower. Butterfly: A butterfly is named after the butter and fly.



COMPOUND COMPANIONS



Some words are best friends. They hang out a lot.



HOT DOG

CLAM CHOWDER

Some words hang out so often that they start to hold hands.

CHECK-IN MERRY-GO-ROUND

Some join up completely. It's like they get married.

AIRPLANE FIREFLY

These friendships are “compound words”:

Best friends are
OPEN compounds.

Hand-holders are
HYPHENATED compounds.

Married words are
CLOSED compounds.



YOUR TURN

Circle the closed compounds. Underline the open compounds.

bathroom

goldfish

runner-up

life-size

full moon

bathrobe

birthday

eyeball

school bus

ice cube

seat belt

ice cream

t-shirt

x-ray

know-it-all

cotton candy

heartbeat

v-neck



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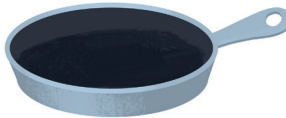
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WORD WEDDINGS CLOSED COMPOUNDS



Sometimes words are used together so much that they become one word. It's like they get married. "Gold" and "fish" became "goldfish". "Sun" and "set" became sunset. These are closed compound words. Can you identify and draw the closed compounds made below?

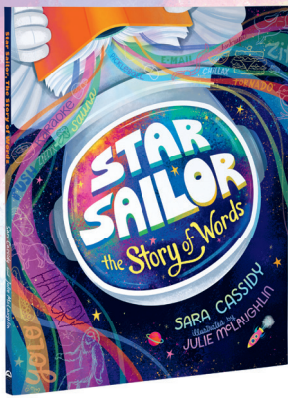


Answers: horseshoe, football, starfish, pancake, lipstick, bookworm.



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INVENT WORDS!

Writers often invent words. Playwright William Shakespeare invented hundreds of words, such as “bedroom”, “eyeball” and “lonely.” Novelist Charlotte Brontë loved putting words together to make new ones.

Add any two words from the list below to make a compound word. For example, “firebutter” or “stone-echo”. Make a few. Your compound can be open (snow broom), hyphenated (snow-broom) or closed (snowbroom).

dragon

snow

storm

thunder

rain

wind

night

hunger

star

fire

river

soup

broom

stone

cave

house

field

butter

tea

howl

fear

ice

moon

wolf

dust

ash

shadow

root

bone

charm

cloak

seed

tide

flame

dusk

echo

void

bread

grief

fog

moss

root

clay

shade

Write a story with the compounds you’ve made that most inspire you.



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